GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OCEAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2299
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2002
CRACKING UP OF ICE SHELVES IN ANTARCTIC PENINSULA
KANTI SINGH;RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned`Polar ice melt poses global threat`appearing in the Times of India dated 14.05.2002.;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the preventive measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINIS OCEAN DRVCELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The disintegration of ice shelf in Antarctica is a continuing process and such episodes keep on occurring. Global warning can be attributed as one of the possible factors for any increase in the incidence of ice shelf collapse.

(c) India has been conducting scientific research at Antarctica since 1981 in the fields of atmospheric sciences, environmental sciences, geology, glaciology, etc. and data are collected to study global warming and ozone idepletion. India has signed the environmental Protocol on Antarctica in 1997 and is playing an active role to preserve the unique Environment of Antarctica by adhering to the protocol norms in and around Indian Antarctic Station `Maitri`.